

In 1864 the stir caused by the Trent Affair led the men at Bruce Mines to organize and arm as independent rifle companies but no official cognizance was taken by the Government indeed the danger of war could not have been great for the rifle company known as the "Volunteer Rifle Company of Sault Sainte Marie" and authorized by General Orders January 23rd 1863 was gazetted out April 29th 1864 the officers having been Captain, John Davidson; Lieutenant, John Carney; and Ensign, W. F. Moore. Two years later, however, there seemed real need for arming and drilling when the misguided Fenians from the United States organized to attack Canada.



A General Order was promulgated instituting a *Company of Infantry* with Captain Joseph Wilson in command and Lieutenants Septimus Prince, Thomas A. P. Towers and Ensign John Cousens as support,

Word reached the Sault that 400 of these men were mobilising at Marquette in Michigan and in response to the call, fifty two men on June 6th paraded under arms, and took up their quarters on the river beach.